

RACIAL CHARACTERISTICS

The 1950 census data pertains to a population more nearly "normal" than will more recent data, insofar as race is concerned, for in 1950 the impact of military growth had not covered over the typically Southern characteristics of the town of Jacksonville. At that time 19 percent of the population was non-white and 81 percent was white. During the past ten years the non-white population has doubtless grown in absolute terms, but certainly it has decreased greatly in proportion. The availability of newly created jobs in the Jacksonville area probably created some in-migration of non-whites from neighboring rural areas where the farm population has been dwindling. In 1950 there were 750 nonwhites in Jacksonville. Through reproductive and migrational increases the nonwhite population may have doubled by 1960. In future years Jacksonville can probably count on a slow proportional rise in the non-white population, caused by the attractiveness of stable government employment.

HOUSING

Detailed housing characteristics for 1960 are not yet available. The preliminary census release, however, points out that as of April, 1960 there were 4,092 housing units in Jacksonville, an increase of 2,926 units (251 percent increase) since 1950. The housing count in 1950 was 1,166 units. The average number of persons per dwelling unit is presently 3.28; the average per dwelling unit in 1950 was 3.39. It will be recalled that the Marine Corps reported the average size of the military families in the area as 3.39. The change since 1950 indicates that on the average there is very little crowding or doubling up in the area, for the average number of persons per dwelling unit is somewhat smaller than the average family size.

Table 9 itemizes the characteristics in 1950. The 1960 census will show a much lower percentage of sub-standard units; however, the absolute number without adequate water and bathing facilities should be examined carefully to determine whether or not portions of the city's housing are still woefully run down. Blighted or slum-type residential areas have turned new industries away from several towns in North Carolina--Jacksonville among them.

Housing of military personnel is outlined in Tables 6 & 8. At the beginning of 1960 the federal government was building 800 permanent Capehart housing units on the Base which are expected to be finished and occupied sometime in 1961. During the next five years it is estimated that 489 rental units on the Base will be demolished, but there will be a net gain of 311 units. The status of trailers on the Base is being studied, and it is possible that the Base will lose all 1,354 trailers presently owned by the Base. No other plans for government housing are available. It is unlikely that more government housing will be constructed because of the cost of maintenance.